



# Idaho's Citizen Commission for Reapportionment

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Public Meeting  
July 26, 2011  
Capitol Auditorium, Capitol Building  
10:00 a.m.

Present were: **Commissioner Esposito, Commissioner Finman, Commissioner Frasure, Commissioner Andersen, Commissioner Kane, and Commissioner Moses.** Present from the staff were **Mr. Keith Bybee, Ms. Kristin Ford, Mr. Todd Cutler, and Cyd Gaudet.** Also present from the Attorney General's office was **Mr. Brian Kane.**

**Chairman Andersen** called the meeting to order and asked if there was any general business to come before the commission at that time. **Commissioner Frasure** indicated that he would like to go ahead and consider the publicly submitted legislative plans. **Chairman Andersen** stated that he had put together a summary of the legislative plans, which had been submitted through the prior week, and explained that the analysis had been done by Bonnie Magnuson. He stated that this may guide the commission as they go through the different plans.

**Commissioner Moses** suggested that, given that they had committed to a 35 district map, that they skip over any full plans which did not include 35 districts. **Commissioner Frasure** said that he appreciated that, as it would probably cut down on this process, but just wanted it duly noted that they still very much appreciated the input. He said that although the commission, after the public hearings, had agreed that they wanted to go with a 35 district plan, he wanted to thank the individuals that submitted these plans, from the commission.

**Chairman Andersen** agreed that this was appropriate that those who have taken the time to develop plans should receive recognition for their efforts, and that the commission appreciates those, and have looked at those plans in preparing the various plans that are presented.

The commission then considered L#1, a 30 district plan.

Next the commission considered L#2 which **Chairman Andersen** indicated does split 11 or more counties. **Commissioner Esposito** indicated that it would be helpful for the staff to give the commission a quick tour through each map to give them a general sense of the plan. He suggested that the commissioners can then ask to focus in on any particular area if necessary. **Chairman Andersen** agreed and asked the staff to give the commission a narrative as they went through the map. **Mr. Cutler** then asked if the commission would like him to read the deviation, look at the report, pull up the website, or read the description. **Commissioner Moses** suggested that he display the population report, so the commission could see each district's deviation. **Mr. Cutler** then moved through districts 1 to 6. **Commissioner Frasure** then indicated that **Mr. Cutler** could focus in on the four main areas of the state and that the commission could then ask him to focus tighter if need be. **Commissioner Frasure** pointed out that it appeared they were trying to encompass the Fort Hall Reservation in this map. **Chairman Andersen** then asked if this map combines Power and Oneida Counties, to which **Commissioner Frasure** agreed.

The commission next considered L#3. **Commissioner Esposito** suggested that they start from the region encompassing Idaho County north in reviewing these maps.

L#4 was reviewed next.

Next reviewed was L#5, which was a partial map of Ada County only.

The commission next reviewed L#6 which focused on the southern portion of the State.

Next reviewed was L#7.

L #8, which was similar to L #7, with just a few changes, was reviewed next. **Commissioner Kane** read the description on the map which stated that it was similar to the prior plan but proposed District 6 does not have Oneida County, and instead takes in the Aberdeen area of Bingham and the western portion of the City of Chubbuck. This map makes it much more possible to keep Ada whole and to link the SE Idaho district to southern Bannock County. She indicated that it was submitted by Jared Larsen. **Commissioner Frasure** noted that they had followed **Commissioner Moses'** instructions and had done seven districts.

The commission then reviewed L#9. **Commissioner Finman** asked **Mr. Cutler** for the comments on the maps and who submitted them, and **Commissioner Kane** asked that he read the comments. **Mr. Cutler** indicated that this map was submitted by Nicholas Webster, and that the comments were that attempts to maintain current districts as much as possible was not easy given population changes. Maximum variance of 2.6% positive and 2.8% negative was not bad when trying to create 35 separate districts. It stated that he paid special attention to attempting to keep counties intact when possible and when not ensuring a state highway connection.

L#10 was reviewed next, it was submitted by Joshua Peters, and the comments read that this plan recreates most of Idaho's 35 districts so that rural and urban suburban communities will be represented by different state legislators. In years past, rural communities have shared their senators and representatives with more urban communities, drawing a legislator's responsibilities in two directions. These districts have been drawn to create urban suburban and rural districts across the state leaving room for suburban districts to develop and grow in the next decade. **Commissioner Frasure** then asked the staff for a copy of the comments sheet for the publicly submitted maps.

Next reviewed was L#11 which was a partial plan.

L#12 was reviewed next, which was submitted by Rebecca Jacobsen. The comments read that *"I used a splitline method. Divide the state in half by population using the shortest line possible. Then divide each of those pieces in half again using the shortest lines. Then recursively continue dividing each part in half by population until 32 districts have been created. I did try to keep counties together but it didn't always work out. Advantages unbiased compact districts only small variations in population between districts."*

The commission then reviewed L#13, which appeared to be a full plan; however, **Mr. Cutler** indicated that it only edited northern Idaho. It was submitted by Representative John Rusche. **Commissioner Frasure** indicated that this was submitted by one of their appointing authorities, and commented that the map looked almost identical to L#28. **Commissioner Moses** commented that he believed that Kootenai County was drawn differently on this map. **Commissioner Frasure** noted that they had changed one or two precincts.

Next reviewed was L#14 created by David Nelson. The comments stated that *this is a Legislative plan north of the Salmon River. It works to keep counties intact where ever possible. It is not well thought out in Kootenai County for boundaries within that county. It has a very large rural district consisting of Idaho, Clearwater, Shoshone, and parts of Bonner County. This area is not well connected but it is of similar economic Forest mines and ranching character.* **Commissioner Kane** then pointed out that Ms. Magnuson's analysis says that this plan splits Bonner in half and splits Kootenai into 4 parts with an 8.39% deviation, and that it splits no precincts.

L#15, submitted by Don Kershner, was next reviewed. The comments state that *this is what I think Ada should look like. The rest is still a work in progress. I used Ada County boundary, Boise River, and I-84. Starting from Hwy 21 and using the previous stated I made my lines according to population. The district numbers do not match current district numbers because I didn't use current lines as a reference.* In answer to **Chairman Andersen's** question about deviation, **Mr. Cutler** indicated the plan appears to be incomplete and he could not determine the overall deviation. **Commissioner Esposito** suggested that this person said he concentrated on Ada County so maybe they should dispense with looking at deviations and just look at the map.

The commission next reviewed L#16, submitted by Sen. Joyce Broadsword, which just focused on the northern districts.

Next reviewed was L#17, submitted by Deborah Silver, which stated this map aligns Magic Valley in a constitutional way.

L#18 was next reviewed. It was submitted by Thomas Dayley and only focused on Ada County. **Commissioner Frasure** indicated that it appeared that he has left everything else as it is and just changed Ada County.

**Commissioner Esposito** then asked for a five minute recess.

**Chairman Andersen** called for a five minute recess at 11:05.

**Chairman Andersen** reconvened the commission and indicated that they were at L#20. **Mr. Cutler** indicated that this map consisted of just two districts.

Next was L#21 which just focused on Ada County.

The commission then reviewed L#22, which was a two district plan.

L#23 was next to be reviewed. **Commissioner Moses** asked what the total deviation on this map was. **Mr. Cutler** indicated that the highest was a 6% deviation. **Commissioner Kane** pointed out that the plan was submitted by Grant Loebs, who had testified at one of the public hearings, and she wanted to recognize that he took them up on their challenge and submitted a map. **Commissioner Frasure** noted that his testimony had been regarding keeping Owyhee and Twin Falls together, and that in trying to draw a statewide plan it looked like it was an educational exercise for him that served its purpose, as he had now changed from his original testimony. **Commissioner Kane** indicated that Mr. Loebs said as much in his comments and she read them as follows: *this is a plan I developed and am submitting at the request of Commissioner Anderson as a result of my testimony at the Twin Falls hearing. My position has changed as a result of conversations with the Commissioners and the testimony of others at the Twin Falls hearing--especially with regard to the Owyhee-Twin Falls County issue. This plan couples Twin Falls with an intact Gooding County and seeks throughout the state to keep counties intact as much as possible. Sen. Lee Heider, Sen. Bert Brackett, Rep. Stephen Hartgen, Rep. Jim Patrick, and Twin Falls County Republican Chairman Gretchen Clelland participated in preparing this proposal.*

The commission then reviewed L#24 which appeared to just focus on the northern part of the State.

Next was L#25 which was also submitted by Jeff Ward, and was very similar to L#24. It was discussed that L#25 and L#24 appeared to be exactly the same.

L#26 was next reviewed, and was a 34 district plan.

The commission then reviewed L#27 which was also a 34 district plan.

The next plan was L#28 which the commission did not wish to re-review at that time.

L#29 was next reviewed; it was a map of the northern portion of the State.

The commission then reviewed L#30. **Commissioner Frasure** read the comments which indicated that this plan is for Ada County only and is named the option A plan. It provides for eight districts in Ada County and a shared district with Canyon County named 21A. He questioned if this was a state wide plan or a partial plan. **Chairman Andersen** noted it that appeared to be just Ada and Canyon Counties.

**Mr. Cutler** then explained that there was one other public plan, which was not in the library yet, and that it would be there by the following day.

**Commissioner Frasure** noted that they wanted to make sure that this was all part of the public record, as they had done on the congressional plans, and said that he appreciated the commission for going through all of the plans. He said it was interesting as they go through these, and that by his count they had 10 statewide plans, and he was wondering if there was a trophy for Mr. Durst since he has submitted 4 of them. **Chairman Andersen** indicated that they could send him an Atta Boy. **Commissioner Frasure** indicated that Mr. Durst edged out Jared Larsen because all of Jared Larsen's plans were partials, so he congratulated Mr. Durst for submitting the fullest plans. He said that since he has taken a very active interest they should acknowledge his participation. **Chairman Andersen** also noted that there were some plans which were submitted by current legislators, who were concerned with this process, and that they appreciated their input as well. **Commissioner Frasure** noted that Grant Loebs had input from several legislators, and then Sen. Joyce Broadsword submitted one from the north, and Representative Rusche submitted a plan. **Commissioner Kane** also indicated that the City of Meridian submitted a plan. She also noted that she wanted to acknowledge and thank everyone who submitted these maps because she knows that it took a lot of work just to get on Maptitude, and that several of them had taken the challenge that **Commissioner Moses** put out there to just do a partial map, and she wanted to express from the entire commission that they appreciated all of the work and thought that went into this. She also said that she would like to give the excellence in map award to Rebecca Jacobsen who used the split line method which she thought was very creative. **Commissioner Moses** then said that he wanted to echo **Commissioner Kane's** sentiment, and indicated there are people who want to talk the talk with them; however, the people that submitted these maps were willing to walk the walk, and that is a substantial contribution.

**Commissioner Frasure** indicated that they were still working on their plan and suggested a recess until 4:00. **Commissioner Moses** indicated that he would be perfectly willing to recess until the following day.

**Commissioner Kane** indicated that before they broke she wanted to note that on their L#28 plan, in District 5, they erroneously stated that Plummer and Worley are in the same district; however, the county line comes between Plummer and Worley, so they are not in the same district.

**Commissioner Frasure** then moved that they adjourn until 10:00 a.m. the following morning. **Chairman Andersen** then adjourned the commission until 10:00 a.m. the following day.